Emirates Airline service from today

DUBAI, Dec 31: Emirates airline will begin operations to Islamabad and Lahore on Jan 1 and 2, respectively. The two Pakistani cities will become the airline's 46th and 47th destinations, linking it to four cities in Pakistan. Emirates will operate four flights a week to Islamabad and three to Lahore, all non-stop from Dubai, according to a Press release.

The new services add to Emirates' 16th weekly flights to Karachi and twice weekly to Peshawar (launched on July 14). They are the result of a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan and Dubai which allows Emirates to operate a total of nine flights a week to three airports in the north of Pakistan — Peshawar, Islamabad and Lahore.

"We are grateful to the government of Pakistan and the civil aviation authorities for their liberal approach which has resulted in a more open air services agreement," Shaikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates, said. "This is certainly the way forward to further expansion of trade and tourism between Pakistan, Dubai and the Gulf region." The flights to Islamabad will operate on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and to Lahore on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. — ***DAWN/KT News Service***